

# Plymouth Congregational United Church of Christ

## Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost



(Photo by Steve Leisher)

**August 18, 2024**

**9:30 am**

We Practice Just Peace: doing justice, seeking peace  
We are Open and Affirming: welcoming LGBTQ+ people  
We Listen for the Still Speaking God  
We are striving to be an Anti-Racism church

Our faith is 2000 years old; our thinking isn't.  
Love God. Love Neighbor. Include Everyone.

*Please inquire with people before assuming they are okay with physical contact.*

# GATHERING

## PRELUDE

## WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS

*Please sign the red friendship pad as it is passed to you and return it to the center aisle noting your neighbor in the pew. You may leave your email if you would like to receive our weekly newsletter.*

*Children are welcome to fill a bag with books and toys, which are in the narthex, to use during worship.  
Sunday School will resume on September 8.*

\*Those who are able may stand.

### \*CALL TO WORSHIP

Liturgist – Steve Majeski

One: “God does not see as mortals see; they look on the outward appearance, but God looks on the heart.” (1 Sam 16:7)

**ALL: We remember the core of goodness residing in each human being.**

One: “Clothe yourselves with compassion” (Col 3:12).

**ALL: Everyone is born with the potential for being compassionate.**

One: “Do not judge and you will not be judged” (Lk 6:37).

**ALL: Harsh judgment keeps love at a distance and blocks peace.**

One: God of All Creation, you enrich our hearts with your bountiful love.

**ALL: As we worship you, may we feel that love growing within us  
and spreading among us!**

### \*HYMN

“I Sing the Mighty Power of God”

NCH(black) #12

### \*PASSING OF THE PEACE

One: May the peace of Christ be with you.

**All: And also with you.**

## UNISON GATHERING PRAYER

**Gracious God, how glad we are to be here!**

**May our minds and hearts be open to receive your Word  
into the depth of our being.**

**Comfort us and challenge us!**

**Bring our attention to the gifts of this present moment.**

**Turn us away from any negative thoughts and feelings,  
so that we may rejoice in your love and respond to one another  
with words of gratitude and acts of kindness. Amen.**

*(Moments of silence)*

One: Liberating God, we give thanks for your forgiving love.

One: Liberating God, we give thanks for your generous love.

One: Turn us again and again toward you.

**ALL:** Liberating God, we give thanks for your compassionate love.

Sung Response                      Spirit of the Living God                      NCH(black) #283

**Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me; Spirit of the living God,  
fall afresh on me. Melt me, mold me, fill me, use me.  
Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.**

# HEARING THE WORD

SCRIPTURE READINGS      Psalm 85: 8-13    (*Echo* Scripture Reading)  
    John 15:9-17

One: May God bless to our understanding these words of Holy Scripture.

**All: Amen**

MESSAGE                      “Practicing Compassion”                      Rev. Ruth Martz

\*HYMN “Help Us Accept Each Other” NCH(black) #388

## RESPONDING TO THE WORD

*We invite you to remember your support for the ministry of PCUCC.*

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow  
Praise God, all creatures here below  
Praise God above, you heavenly host:  
Creator, Christ and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

## **\*PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND DEDICATION**

**In gratitude for all that we have been given,  
we give these gifts to you, O God.**

**May what we give bring  
compassion to one who is suffering,  
food to one who is hungry,  
kindness to one who is lonely,  
hospitality to one who lives without shelter,  
and hope to those who long for the touch of your love.  
We know that this is possible, as you transform our gifts  
through the work of your Spirit.  
Thanks be to you, O God! Amen.**

## **PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

**Pastor: O God, in your grace and mercy . . .**

**Response: Hear your people at prayer.**

## **PASTORAL PRAYER**

### **PRAYER OF OUR SAVIOR**

**All: Our Father\*\*, who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name.  
Thy Kingdom come; Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread.  
And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.  
And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.  
For Thine is the Kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever.  
Amen.**

**\*\*We believe that God is revealed in persons of all genders and sorts; we also honor tradition.**

## **SENDING**

**\*HYMN                      “Thank Our God for Sisters, Brothers”                      NCH(black) #397**

### **\*PASTORAL BENEDICTION**

### **POSTLUDE**

The Postlude ends our gathered worship and sends us into the world where our true service begins.  
Feel free to let the music lead you out, or stay to listen, however the Spirit moves you.

### **Keeping in Prayer:**

Prayers and condolences for the family of Dick Brace who passed away on August 5

Prayers and condolences for the family of Eva Karcher who passed away on July 23

Prayers for Paul Santonelli as he awaits housing in Laconia

Prayers and condolences for the Mead family following the death of their beloved Hansi

Prayers for Ruth Mosher as she undergoes outpatient dialysis.

Prayers for Rebecca Herr, as she undergoes chemotherapy

Prayers for Sage Pirnie and her family, granddaughter of Diane Arsenault and Pete Pirnie

Prayers for the people of Palestine and Israel

Prayers for the people of Ukraine

Prayers for Rev. Muchayi and our partner church in Zimbabwe, Masvingo UCCZ

*If you have a prayer request, please write on the yellow card in the pews and place it in the offering tray, or send an email to [office@uccplymouth.org](mailto:office@uccplymouth.org)*

### **This Week and More at PCUCC**

Today, August 18	2:00 p.m. Memorial Service for Dick Brace
Tuesday, August 20	7:00 pm AA Meeting
Thursday, August 22	7:00 pm NA Meeting
Friday, August 23	8:00 pm AA Meeting
Monday, August 26	1:00 pm Knitting Group
Saturday, September 7	9:00-3:00 Church Tables during the Plymouth Yard Sale
Sunday, September 8	Rally Sunday!
Monday, September 9	10:00 Book Group

### **Preaching Schedule:**

Aug. 25: Rev. Rebecca Larson  
Sept. 1: Rev. Rebecca Larson  
Sept. 8: Rev. Campbell Lovett  
Sept. 15: Rev. Ruth Martz

Sept. 22: Alison Thatcher  
Sept. 29: Rev. Campbell Lovett  
Oct. 6: Rev. Campbell Lovett  
Oct. 13: Alison Thatcher

**Recommended Reading:** “Boundless Compassion” and “Prayers of Boundless Compassion,” by Joyce Rupp

**Calling on Bakers!** Cookies or Bars are needed for the memorial service for Sarah Riaz, daughter of Liza Harrison, scheduled for August 31 at 3 pm. Please let Edie Doherty 919-448-4032 (call or text) know. Leave in the kitchen that day. Thank you for this discipleship to a family in transition.

**Saturday, September 7th (9 am-3 pm)**

**OUR CHURCH TABLES during the Plymouth Town Wide Yard Sale**

**Please sign up** on the sheets in the Narthex or by emailing [office@uccplymouth.org](mailto:office@uccplymouth.org).

- 1) To bring baked goods or cider for our Hospitality Table.
- 2) To host for one hour our Hospitality or Information Table.
- 3) To set up and host an individual Yard Sale Table.

All proceeds will go to the church's HOPE FUND.

**Rally Sunday:** Sunday School and Choir will resume on September 8. Please join us for this fun-filled Sunday when we return to worship together after the summer months!

**Book Group** is reading The Berry Pickers by Amanda Peters. Join the discussion on September 9<sup>th</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> at 10am in the parlor. Contact Kathy Henning for more information: [henkat52@gmail.com](mailto:henkat52@gmail.com).

**Part 2 Pledge Update:** We are overwhelmed by the generosity and commitment of our church members who have either increased their pledge from the previous year and/or added to their original pledge. We estimate the additional amount pledged plus the credit balance remaining from last fiscal year will cover a full-time pastor! We ask that if you are considering a pledge increase for this year, there is still need as areas of the budget were reduced as a part of the process to balance this year's budget, i.e. Mission and Outreach, Faith Formation, etc. Thank you.

Linda LaPrad - Finance Chair

Ann Thurston - Treasurer

**Calling for Summer Lemonade and Altar Flowers:** Please sign up to bring lemonade for fellowship following Worship or flowers for our Sunday altar. The sign up sheets are on the wall in the Narthex. There are still open dates, including September 1st!

**Knitting Group** meets every second and fourth Monday of the month at 1:00 pm. Join us with your fiber art of choice, trouble-shooting questions, or just for fellowship!

**IMPORTANT REMINDER FOR SOFT PLASTIC COLLECTION:**

The collection of soft plastic for repurposing has been wonderful, BUT many recent items have not had the paper labels removed, and bread bags have been full of crumbs. **PLEASE REMOVE all labels that are not plastic, and please CLEAN out every item.** Soft plastics are delivered to the UU church in Laconia, then Hannaford's, then repurposed in Maine for Trex decks and furniture. THANK YOU!

**FOOD PANTRY SUNDAY:** Mission and Outreach Committee would like to designate the FIRST SUNDAY of each month "Food Pantry Sunday," to encourage all of you to bring in non-perishable food items. Please place your donations in front of the altar or in the basket in the Narthex. On the first Sunday, we will also set out **a red heart box** for monetary donations. Please click on the link for a list of suggested food donations. Warmest thanks!

**Support PCUCC with no cost to you!** Purchase a Hannaford Gift Card in the amount of \$100, \$250, or \$500 by contacting Linda LaPrad or Ann Thurston. For every card purchased from the Finance Committee, the church receives 5% with no additional cost to you.

## Office Hours

Tuesday – Friday 9:00-2:00

If you have a family emergency and want to talk with a pastor, please call Transition Team Member Rev. Ruth Martz at 603-630-7936. Or you may call Eileen Torrey at 603-252-7513.

Alison Thatcher, Office Administrator  
David A. Williams, Director of Music  
Jennifer Byam, Director of Faith Formation  
Ann Thurston, Treasurer  
Jim Tyrrell, Summer Interim Accompanist

office@uccplymouth.org  
musicdirector@uccplymouth.org  
faithformation@uccplymouth.org  
treasurer@uccplymouth.org

Guest Preacher: Rev. Ruth Martz

Transition Team: Rebecca Larson, Campbell Lovett, Ruth Martz, Alison Thatcher

Plymouth Congregational United Church of Christ  
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## Celebrating Birthdays and Anniversaries in our Community

If you have a birthday or anniversary this month or next, please email to:  
office@uccplymouth.org

Jan Bass	August 1	Jim LaPrad	August 21
Arline Bownes	August 11	Marti Shoemaker	August 29
Natalie Amtmann	August 21		

